

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 313

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED - HAUSER SPEAKS TO INQUIRY COMMITTEE

REF: ROME 15983

1. AS ANNOUNCED REFTTEL, FORMER LOCKHEED EMPLOYEE ERNEST HAUSER APPEARED BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 30 TO TESTIFY VOLUNTARILY ABOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF LOCKHEED ACTIVITIES IN ITALY. THE SELF-CONFIDENT HAUSER, WHO REPORTEDLY AT ONE POINT THREATENED TO LEAVE THE ROOM IF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS DIDN'T CHANGE THE TONE OF THEIR QUESTIONS, RESPONDED TO INQUIRIES FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS. ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS THROWN A STRICT VEIL OF SECRECY OVER HAUSER'S TESTIMONY, HIS ALLEGED STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN WIDELY VARYING VERSIONS. THE SINGLE CONSTANT ELEMENT SEEMS TO BE THAT HAUSER ADMITTED THAT THE THREE COPIES OF LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE OBTAINED BY L'ESPRESSO WERE NOT MADE FROM THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, BUT FROM TYPEWRITTEN TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE ORIGINALS. THE TRANSCRIPTIONS WERE ALLEGEDLY FURNISHED TO HAUSER BY A LOCKHEED INSTRUCTOR PILOT NAMED BEN MACAVOY. HAUSER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE IN TURN GAVE THE DOCUMENTS TO PATRIZIA LOMBROSO, NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

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FOR AVANTI, THE PSI NEWSPAPER.

2. SCIOALIST-ORIENTED NEWSPAPERS SUCH AS LA REPUBBLICA AND AVANTI TENDED TO GIVE CREDENCE TO HAUSER'S ALLEGED TESTIMONY, AND FAILED TO EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT PM ANDREOTTI MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN SOME WAY INVOLVED WITH LOCKHEED. CENTER PAPERS, SUCH AS IL GIORNALE, AND THE PCI PRESS (L'UNITA') FIND THEMSELVES AGREEING THAT HAUSER WAS NOT A CREDIBLE WITNESS, THAT THE DOCUMENTS ARE ALMOST SURELY FALSE, THAT PM ANDREOTTI WAS PROBABLY NOT INVOLVED WITH LOCKHEED AND THATH THE COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO TRAVEL TO THE US AGAIN IN ORDER TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS. THE PCI'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF PM ANDREOTTI IS NOTEWORTHY.

3. LA REPUBBLICA PLAYS FAST AND LOOSE WITH QUOTATION MARKS IN REPORTING HAUSER'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS. ITS LONG FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BEGINS WITH HAUSER DENYING THAT HE HAD EVER CLAIMED POSSESSION OF PROOF OF ANDREOTTI'S INVOLVEMENT. IT THEN GOES ON TO QUOTE HAUSER AS SAYING THAT LOCKHEED PAID \$180,000 IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF 30 F-104 AIRCRAFT TO ITALY FROM 1961-54. HAUSER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF CONSIGNED THE ILLICIT PAYMENTS TO AN INTERMEDIARY, WHO IN TURN GAVE THE MONEY TO EITHER A GENERAL OR "THE MINISTER" (PRESUMABLY OF DEFENSE). COMMENT: PM ANDREOTTI WAS MINISTER OF DEFENSE DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 15, 1959 TO JANUARY 21, 1966. END COMMENT. LATER IN THE ARTICLE, HAUSER IS REPORTED AS ENCOURAGING THE COMMITTEE TO QUESTION A SWISS CITIZEN NAMED FRED MEUSER, MEUSER IS ALLEGED TO HAVE MADE ILLICIT PAYMENTS BOTH IN HOLLAND AND IN ITALY IN LOCKHEED'S BEHALF, AND HE IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF PM ANDREOTTI. LATER, THE NWSPAPER REPORTS HAUSER AS SAYING MEUSER AND ANDREOTTI HAD A FALLING OUT AND ANDREOTTI SUCCEEDED IN HAVING LOCKHEED TRANSFER MEUSER FROM ITALY TO HOLLAND.VOLPE

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